

REMARKS

Claims 13-16 and 18-27 are currently pending in this application, as amended. By the present amendment, claim 13 has been amended, claim 17 has been canceled and new claims 25-27 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24 include allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, applicants have amended claim 13 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17. Accordingly, claim 13 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 14-16 and 18-24, all depend directly or indirectly from claim 13 and should similarly be allowable. Additionally, applicants have rewritten claim 20 in independent form as new claim 25. Claim 25 includes all the limitations of claims 13, 18, 19 and 20, and accordingly should also be in condition for allowance. Claim 23 has also been rewritten in independent form as new claim 26. New claim 26 includes all of the subject matter of claims 13, 18 and 23 and therefore should also be in condition for allowance. Claim 24 has also been rewritten in independent

form as new claim 27. Claim 27 includes all of the limitations of claims 13, 18 and 24. Accordingly, claim 27 should also be in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection

Claims 13-16, 18, 19 and 22 were rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 862,033 to Toof. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, as noted above, applicants have placed all of the claims in condition for allowance by incorporating allowable subject matter into each independent claim. Accordingly, the 102 rejection in view of Toof has been rendered moot.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant: Fluckiger et al.
Application No.: 10/552,123

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 13-16 and 18-27, is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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